

Message Text

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ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 NEAE-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00
USIE-00 INRE-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-01 INR-07
L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15
SSM-03 IO-13 AID-05 /083 W
-----124940 291255Z /43

O R 291210Z JUN 77
FM AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 2559
INFO AMEMBASSY ANKARA
AMEMBASSY COLOMBO
AMEMBASSY DACCA
AMEMBASSY KABUL
AMCONSUL KARACHI
AMCONSUL LAHORE
AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI
AMEMBASSY PARIS
AMEMBASSY TEHRAN
CINCPAC

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CINCPAC FOR POLAD

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: PINT, PK
SUBJ: POLITICAL SITUATION IN PAKISTAN

REF: ISLAMABAD 6602

1. IN A HURRIEDLY CALLED PRESS CONFERENCE IN HIS CHAMBERS
AT THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY ON JUNE 28, BUHTTO REJECTED THE
OPPOSITION'S "THREATS" TO END NEGOTIATIONS (REPORTED REFTEL)
AND REPORTEDLY SAID THAT AN ACCORD WITH THE PNA WAS STILL
POSSIBLE BECAUSE AN AGREEMENT ON THE BASIC POINTS HAD
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ALREADY BEEN REACHED. THE PRIME MINISTER WARNED HOWEVER
THAT IF THERE WAS A DEADLOCK THE FAULT RESTED WITH THE PNA.

2. IN DISCUSSING HIS VIEWS OF THE REASONS FOR THE PRESENT
PNA/GOVERNMENT DISAGREEMENT, BHUTTO MADE MORE DETAILED
REFERENCES TO THE SUBSTANCE OF THE PNA/GOVERNMENT NEGOTIA-
TIONS THAN HE HAS FORMERLY. ACCORDING TO THE PRIME MINISTER,

NEW ELECTIONS WOULD BE SUPERVISED BY THE ARMED FORCES AND JUDICIARY. BHUTTO ALSO CLAIMED HE HAD HIMSELF PROPOSED A JOINT COMMITTEE TO IMPLEMENT THE MEASURES FOR A FAIR ELECTION WITH THE PROVISIO THAT DISPUTES WOULD BE REFERRED TO THE SUPREME COURT. NOW, BHUTTO ASSERTS, THE PNA IS ATTEMPTING TO TURN THE JOINT COMMITTEE INTO A "SUPER-GOVERNMENT."

3. THE LATEST POSTURING BY BOTH SIDES AND THE THREAT OF A DEADLOCK IN THE NEGOTIATIONS CAUSED A FLURRY OF ACTIVITY AND "CLARIFICATIONS" TO GET THE TALKS BACK ON TRACK. THE UBIQUITOUS SAUDI AMBASSADOR WAS REPORTED IN THE PAK PRESS TO HAVE IMMEDIATELY STARTED EFFORTS TO END THE THREATENED DEADLOCK. HE MET WITH OPPOSITION LEADERS MUFTI MAHMOOD AND NASRULLAH NAWABZADA KHAN BEFORE CALLING ON THE PRIME MINISTER. IN ADDITION, MUFTI MAHMOOD REPORTEDLY ASSURED BHUTTO THAT THE PNA WAS NOT ISSUING AN ULTIMATUM AND THAT, IN FACT, THE PNA WAS WILLING TO CONTINUE DISCUSSIONS AND NEGOTIATIONS. APPARENTLY THE GOVERNMENT SIDE WAS MOLLIFIED. THE "PAKISTAN TIMES" REPORTED THAT THE PNA'S NEW DRAFT ACCORD WOULD NOW BE PRESENTED TO FINANCE MINISTER AND PPP NEGOTIATOR HAFEEZ PIRZADA ON THE MORNING OF JUNE 29. ACCORDING TO PRESS REPORTS, PIRZADA WILL REVIEW THE NEW DRAFT AND A MEETING OF THE SUB-COMMITTEE COMPRISING PIRZADA AND GHAFOOR COULD BE HELD AS EARLY AS THE EVENING OF JUNE 29.

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4. THIS MOST RECENT CONFRONTATION BETWEEN THE PNA AND GOVERNMENT OVER THE DETAILS OF THE ACCORD COULD BE NOTHING MORE THAN TRADITIONAL NEGOTIATING TACTICS IN THE BEST TRADITION OF SUB-CONTINENTAL RUG MERCHANTS MAKING A LAST MINUTE EFFORT TO GET THE BEST DEAL. THEREFORE WHILE THE PNA AND THE PRIME MINISTER PUBLICLY TRADE ACCUSATIONS AND THREATS AND QUIBBLE OVER DETAILS OF THE ACCORD WE CONTINUE TO BELIEVE THAT IT WILL BE ONLY BHUTTO'S PERCEPTION THAT HE HAS NO OTHER ALTERNATIVE TO HIS POLITICAL SURVIVAL THAT WILL LEAD TO AN AGREEMENT.

5. IF THE PNA AND GOVERNMENT FAIL TO SIGN AN ACCORD BY THIS WEEKEND THE LIKELIHOOD OF CIVIL DISTURBANCES GREATLY INCREASES. ACCORDING TO A JUNE 28 PRESS REPORT, THE PNA'S KARACHI SECRETARY GENERAL HAS CALLED FOR ANOTHER OPERATION "WHEEL JAMMER" TO STOP ALL TRANSPORTATION ON JULY 2 IF AN ACCORD IS NOT SIGNED. IN ADDITION PNA LEADERS HAVE ANNOUNCED THEY INTEND TO LEAD PROCESSIONS IN KARACHI, LAHORE AND RAWALPINDI AFTER JUMA (AFTERNOON) PRAYERS ON FRIDAY, JULY 1. ASGHAR KHAN INTENDS TO LEAD A PROCESSION IN LAHORE ON FRIDAY. WITH THE INCREASED

ACTIVITY OF THE PNA OVER THE NEXT FEW DAYS THE INTENSITY
AND NUMBER OF PPP/PNA CLASHES WILL GROW.

6. THE JUNE 29 "PAKISTAN TIMES" AND PPP PARTY NEWSPAPER
"MUSAWAT" REPORTED THAT AT A DIVISIONAL CONVENTION OF THE
PPP HELD IN MULTAN ON JUNE 28, THE CONVENTION PASSED A
RESOLUTION CONDEMNING "UNITED STATES IMPERIALIST CONSPIRACY
AGAINST THE INTEGRITY AND SOLIDARITY OF THE COUNTRY."
THE "MUSAWAT" ARTICLE ADDED THAT THE REASON FOR THE
"IMPERIALIST CONSPIRACY" IS THAT THE "IMPERIALISTS"
OPPOSE PAKISTAN'S ACQUISITION OF A REPROCESSING PLANT
BECAUSE THEY DO NOT WANT PAKISTAN EXTENDING HELP TO THIRD
WORLD AND MUSLIM COUNTRIES.

HUMMEL

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NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
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Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 29-Jun-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
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Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
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Disposition History: n/a
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Litigation Codes:
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